

**Office of  
the Mayor  
Burlington,  
Vermont**



**Bob Kiss**  
Mayor  
Room 34, City Hall  
Burlington, VT 05401  
Tel: (802) 865-7272  
Fax: (802) 865-7270  
TDD: (802) 865-7142

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Contact:  
Joe Reinert  
Assistant to the Mayor  
865-7275  
[jreinert@ci.burlington.vt.us](mailto:jreinert@ci.burlington.vt.us)

**CONSTRUCTION WORK COMPLETE ON DOWNTOWN ‘SIDE STREETS’ PROJECT**

*Improvements to Lower Church Street and Saint Paul Street  
Enhance Pedestrian Amenities and Vitality of Downtown Burlington*

Burlington, VT – A ribbon-cutting ceremony today marked the completion of major construction activities on a \$1.6 million project that significantly re-designed pedestrian and streetscape elements of lower Church Street and Saint Paul Street. Through the efforts of U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), the City of Burlington received federal funding for these improvements.

The improvements include new traffic signals, crosswalks, curbs, sidewalks, street lighting, and road surfaces along St. Paul Street between Main Street and College Street and on Church Street between Main Street and King Street. These improvements will enhance the experience of residents and visitors in Burlington’s downtown and central business district, promote economic vitality, and improve the overall quality of life.

Today’s event marked completion of the side streets project and also served as the unveiling of the newly refurbished plaque commemorating the location of the original Ben & Jerry’s scoop shop at the corner of St. Paul and College Streets. This is where Ben & Jerry’s opened up its first Scoop Shop in a former gas station on May 5, 1978. From these beginnings Ben & Jerry’s became a household name for the highest-quality ice cream as well as a symbol of Burlington and Vermont’s entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to social and environmental issues.

“The Church Street Marketplace is the crown jewel of Downtown Burlington and a true treasure for Vermont,” said Leahy. “I have been pleased to work with the city first to upgrade the Marketplace’s aging infrastructure and then to begin incorporating the side streets and alleyway into the overall Church Street experience. These improvements will ensure that downtown

Burlington continues to be a vital and vigorous place for residents and visitors alike for years to come.”

Senator Leahy has secured more than \$14 million in federal funding for the Church Street Marketplace since its inception. He obtained \$5.4 million in 1979 to get the Marketplace started, and over the past decade he has secured \$9 million more to help refurbish Church Street and the surrounding area. These funds have been used to brick the City Hall Block; overhaul the antiquated electrical system; install new trees, benches, and information kiosks; reconstruct the alleyway to the Marketplace Garage; and begin to make streetscape improvements along the side streets of Main, St. Paul, College, Bank, and Cherry.

“We are pleased to see completion of this important project, thanks in great part to the support and vision of Senator Leahy,” said Mayor Bob Kiss. “These improvements will enhance the experience of residents and visitors in our downtown and central business district, promote economic vitality, and improve quality of life. Congratulations to everyone involved for their hard work in making it happen!”

The project cost is \$1.6 million, which includes \$323,000 in local-match funding. This investment in Burlington’s downtown core improves the vitality and economic opportunity on these blocks that border the Church Street Marketplace.

The project, now essentially complete, includes upgrades to sidewalks and ADA compliance issues, improvements to major intersections, providing bulb-outs, mid-block crossings, and use of on-street kiosk parking meters. The components include:

- Installation of bulb-outs at key intersections;
- Granite curbing with brick soldier course;
- Cold plane pavement and overlay;
- New catch basins (with narrow openings and flush to pavement where needed);
- Slow speeds to 20 mph;
- New “countdown” crossing signals, pavement and new ramps;
- New mid-block crossing on St Paul Street;
- Lower Church Street and St. Paul re-configuration and improvement;
- Additional lighting upgrades for downtown fixtures;
- Colored solar pavers installed on Church Street;
- Additional way-finding;
- Bicycle transportation improvements;
- On-street parking using kiosk payment;
- Additional plantings; and
- Consistent sidewalk pavement and widths at key areas.